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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

FDD Abstract of

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BERLIN OUTER FREIGHT BELT; MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INFORMATION (1 p; German; October 1951)

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The document is a [] dated 1 October 1951. The report deals with the following items:

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Work on the strategically and economically highly important outer railroad freight belt around Berlin is being expedited to the utmost. Its most important sectors will be completed in 1951. The Marzahn-Oranienburg sector was completed in 1950, the sectors Grossbeeren-Seddin and Grossbeeren-Schoeneweide in July 1951. The most important traffic hub will be the area between Gruenau and Adlershof. This sector will have 20 bridges including five with lengths ranging from 60 to 100 meters. The shunting stations Lichtenberg, Schoeneweide, and Rummelsburg will be replaced by new shunting stations to be constructed at Seddin, Wustermark, and Wuhlheide. The latter will be eight kilometers long. The most sensitive sector is the so-called "Hoher Damm" (High Embankment), between Alt-Glienicke and Pankow. "

In 1952 262,000 youth will graduate from schools of the German Democratic Republic. 80,000 of these will be drafted for work in the uranium and coal mines. "

An attempt to introduce a collective work contract lead to disturbances at the Leuna plant. As a result several SED party officials have been arrested for lack of alertness or have been subjected to party trials. " A purge at the Reichsbahn Directorate Halle seems to be completed. Several high officials, all SED members, went to jail. (Six names in all are mentioned.) "

The turnover in the stores of the Trade Organization (HO) during the second and third quarters reached only about half of the planned figure, due to inflated prices and extraordinarily poor quality of the merchandise. HO store-houses are bulging. (In the mean time prices have been slashed considerably and textile rationing abolished.)

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